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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 538
By Womack

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mrs. Joan M. Gray for receiving the T.C.T.E. Award for Excellence in the Teaching of English.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those persons who through their professional efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Mrs. Joan Gray, who has recently received the Award for Excellence in the Teaching of English from the Tennessee Council of Teachers of English; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gray began her career in teaching following her graduation from Vanderbilt's Peabody College in 1965; she earned a Master of Arts Degree in English from Middle Tennessee State University in 1985 and a Supervisory Endorsement in 1990; and

WHEREAS, with an extensive background of teaching the English language, Joan Gray taught English and Mathematics at Forrest School in Chapel Hill from 1965-83, English at

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Richland School in Lynnville from 1983-87, and has taught Advanced Placement and Honors English and Language Arts at Central High School in Shelbyville since 1987; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her work with her students at Shelbyville Central High School, Mrs. Gray has been active in the Tennessee and National Education Associations since 1965; she has served the State Association as a State Negotiation Committee member since 1997; and

WHEREAS, Joan Gray has served as President of the Marshall County Education Association in 1980-81, Building Representative of the Giles County Education Association from 1983-87, President of the Bedford County Education Association in 1996-97, as well as Chief Negotiator since 1993 and Building Representative since 1995; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gray is also a longtime member of the National Council of Teachers of English, serving as State Coordinator for the Awards in Writing program; the Tennessee Council of Teachers of English, serving on the Executive Committee and as Middle Tennessee Vice-President in 1990; Delta Kappa Gamma; Phi Delta Kappa; the Tennessee Teachers Study Council from 1983-88; Teacher Liaison to the State Board of Education from 1985-88; and the Association of Administration and Supervision since 1988; and

WHEREAS, Joan Gray has diligently pursued her professional growth as a participant, presenter, coordinator or officer in numerous professional development seminars, workshops, and organizations; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gray has been singled out for recognition by her peers on numerous occasions; she has been a Career Ladder Level III teacher since 1985, was TEA Department of Classroom Teachers' Distinguished Classroom Teacher in 1980; Marshall County Teacher of the Year in 1980; Forrest School Teacher of the Year in 1980, 1981 and 1982; Giles County and Richland High School Teacher of the Year in 1986; Bedford County Teacher of the Year for Grades 7-12 in 1997; Central High School Teacher of the Year in 1997; and a Carnegie Mellon Scholar-Advanced Placement Program Participant in 1989; and

WHEREAS, Joan Gray epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; Ms. Roberta Daws, Committee Chair for the Tennessee Council for Teachers of English, wrote, "This award is in recognition both of Mrs. Gray's excellence in classroom teaching and for her professional involvement and commitment. She was one of seven teachers in the state to be chosen to receive this award."; and

WHEREAS, in presenting the Award at the TCTE Conference in Memphis on October 2, 1999, Dr. Sharon Chaney stated "More important than awards is Mrs. Gray's ability to turn students on to English. Her caring attitude and superior knowledge of the subject makes her effective with students at all levels and abilities. She is creative and innovative in her approach. She sets high standards for herself and her students and then works hard to see that they are met. She is constantly broadening her knowledge, improving her teaching strategies, and sharing with her peers what she has learned. Mrs. Gray serves as the example of what an outstanding teacher really is."; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gray is most grateful for the love and encouragement she shares with her husband, Ed Gray, Assistant Superintendent of Bedford County Schools, her four children, and seven grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it fitting to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mrs. Joan Gray for her dedication to the state of Tennessee and its children; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Mrs. Joan M. Gray for receiving the Tennessee Council for Teachers of English Award for Excellence in the Teaching of English and for her service to the state of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.